



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:  
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To: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
Governor of Guam  
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands  
Governor of American Samoa  
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife will post the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) FY 2007 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Tier 1 on grants.gov this month.

The purpose of this correspondence is to: (1) clarify what the Fish and Wildlife Service expects in a LIP Tier 1 proposal; (2) explain how the Service will determine grant award amounts; (3) notify you of the intended timeline for proposals; and (4) emphasize the importance of obligating LIP grant funds quickly.

At this time, we are requesting only proposals for Tier 1 grants. If the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill contains adequate funding for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 grants, we will send out a separate RFP for Tier 2 grants at a later date.

To apply for Tier 1 funds, States and other eligible jurisdictions must meet the eligibility requirements for Tier 1 grants in the LIP Implementation Guidelines. To provide further guidance, we have attached a copy of *LIP Tier 1 Eligibility Requirement Expectations* in the *LIP Guidelines (FY 2007)*. It describes the information that must be included in the applications. We suggest you address these six eligibility requirements individually as a subheading within the *Approach* or *Procedures* section of the narrative for a grant proposal.

At this time, we are uncertain of the level of LIP funding and can not guarantee that grants will be funded in 2007. We will determine Tier 1 LIP award amounts based on the amount appropriated by Congress for FY 2007 and the number of States that apply. Each State may apply for up to \$200,000 of Tier 1 funding, which is an increase from the \$180,000 cap in previous years; however, we expect that the award amount will be between \$100,000 to \$200,000. Commonwealths, Territories and the District of Columbia may apply for up to \$75,000.

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The anticipated schedule for the FY 2007 LIP program consists of placing a 45-day Request for Proposals on grants.gov. We ask States and other eligible jurisdictions to submit hard copies of Tier 1 proposals to the Division of Federal Assistance in their respective Regional Offices. Within 30 days after the proposal submission deadline, the Regional Offices will submit award recommendations to the Washington Office. The Service Director and Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks must approve these recommendations before the Service can make awards.

To ensure that Congress continues to consider this program for funding, it is critical that States and other eligible jurisdictions obligate current and prior LIP funds as quickly as possible and on an annual basis. If your agency has been slow to obligate LIP funds, we urge you to identify LIP spending as a priority and assign adequate staff to implement this program in a timely fashion. For its part, the Service is working to streamline compliance requirements to allow for a more timely grant obligation process.

We hope this information has been helpful to you. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Federal Assistance Office.

Sincerely,

  
Acting Deputy  
DIRECTOR

Attachment